Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, April 3, 2012

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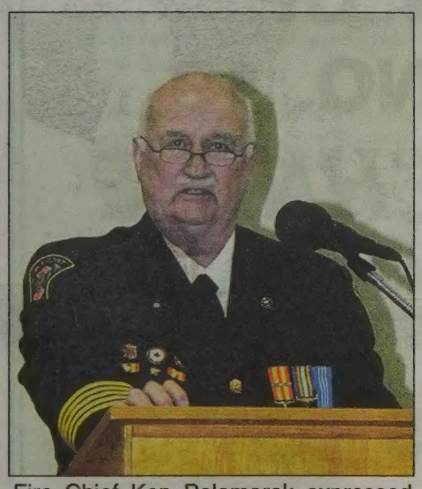
Vicki Brooker photo

Elk Point BPOE hosts District 6 Meeting

District Deputy Bernadette Godlien and the officers and members of Elk Point BPO Elks Lodge No. 460 hosted the six lodges that make up District 6 at the annual District Meeting on Saturday. A total of 38 members from lodges in Elk Point, St. Paul, Hairy Hill, Myrnam, Vegreville and Lac La Biche, as well as representatives of the Grand Lodge, were in attendance for the afternoon meeting and the banquet, catered by Elk Point Royal Purple, that followed. Godlien will serve District 6 as their District Deputy again in the coming year.

Firefighters host annual ball, silent auction



Fire Chief Ken Palamarek expressed his appreciation to his dedicated crew.

By Vicki Brooker
Review Staff

Elk Point Volunteer Firefighters held their annual Firefighters' Ball on Saturday evening, with a near-sellout crowd on hand to enjoy a sumptuous meal, bid on a huge variety of silent auction items and dance the night away.

MC Robert Smith had a new stock of jokes up his sleeve, many of them involving firefighters, but the evening's honoured speakers had nothing but praise for these tireless volunteers who protect our community and surrounding area.

"Tonight is a celebration to say thank you to all those who volunteer with the fire department," incumbent MLA Ray Danyluk said. "If there's an accident or a fire, they're on their way to help, no matter what the time of day or night."

Danyluk has first-hand knowledge of the value of the fire department. "At our place and Peter's, we've had three fires over the years. It could have been disastrous to us and to our neighbours if it weren't for the firefighters. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

All the firefighters' efforts do not involve attending collisions and battling flames, Danyluk noted. "Your work finally came to fruition, of having a new fire hall. It's one of the greatest fire halls in rural Alberta, and they keep it and their equipment so clean, they're always ready to go." He urged the crowd to "Please stop a firefighter tonight, and say thank you."

County of St. Paul Coun. Dwight Dach knows fire fighting from the ground up, having returned to his home town after 35 years with the Edmonton Fire Department. In his tribute to the firefighters, he told the crowd the real meaning of a very familiar symbol, the Maltese Cross that firefighters wear.

"The Maltese Cross has eight points, and the significance of these points are gallantry, perseverance, loyalty, dexterity, explicitness, observation, tact and sympathy. From the days of the first crusade, the cross has been the symbol of the Christian warrior to fight in defense of the Holy Land, and also to protect the lives of his companions."

Because of their armour, Dach noted, the knights needed an emblem to distinguish them from the enemy, and they chose the Cross of Calvary as that emblem. The Maltese Cross now worn by modern firefighters is an adaptation of that emblem."

During the Crusades, many knights "be came firefighters out of necessity,"he noted.

(Continued on Page 3)

RCMP gets town's take on priorities

By Vicki Brooker
Review Staff

Elk Point town council shared their priorities for local policing with Cpl. Roy Auger, who currently heads the Elk Point RCMP Detachment, at last week's regular council meeting, with speeding and parking along Highway 41 through town, vandalism, the lack of compliance with the town's curfew and off-road vehicle bylaws all seen by council as areas in need of improvement.

Auger met with Frog Lake council and planned to meet with the County of St. Paul council "to get their viewpoints on priorities we should try to act on." Each detachment is required to set priorities on an annual basis, and council also felt that priorities set last year by Sgt. Brad Lazicki should be continued. These included along with speeding and parking on the highway, dog complaints and noise infractions.

Town manager Myron Goyan asked for Auger's input on bylaw reviews, noting that some bylaws are "lacking in their penalty clauses."

Auger told council he would like to meet with them on a monthly basis "and nip problems in the bud," which council agreed was a good idea.

The detachment currently has two members soon to go on maternity leave, a sergeant is yet to be named and at that time, the contract for Frog Lake members had not been renewed, Auger reported. The Fishing Lake member is still in place. The members will be taking off-highway vehicle training in the near future, and RCMP property management will be coming to look at the building in the near future.

Appointment

Coun. Bernice Capjack was appointed as an alternative director for the Regional Water Board.

Allocation of grants

Goyan outlined the funding available for projects from municipal transportation grants, gas tax grants and Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grants, and reminded council that transportation and gas tax grants must be used improve or upgrade existing infrastructure, while the MSI grants can be used at the town's discretion.

"My recommendation is to use the grants for street upgrades," Goyan said.

Mayor Parrish Tung felt it "would be foolish to sink (the funds) into a project without tangible returns. I don't agree with doing road repairs every two years. Council has to take a stand and say what to do, in my opinion." He asked Goyan to make a recommendation at an upcoming meeting for "a couple of projects to use these grants properly. We have to be good money managers."

Council discussed repairing industrial park roads, noting that the avenue from the highway to the public works shop already has curb and gutter, and could be done, while rebuilding the north-south streets will require the installation of storm sewer. Council was reminded that if the town decides to borrow money for the more extensive rebuilding program, it would be necessary to pass a bylaw to allow the town to charge local improvement taxes on properties along those streets.

Sewage lagoon

Council approved a recommendation by the public works committee to hire Bear Slashing to remove brush in the area for the sewage lagoon expansion.

Recreation coordinator

"Who will run the Duck Race?" was the question before council, as they discussed who would carry on the project started by former recreation coordinator and water spray park fundraiser Valerie Lazicki. The Lions, who some on the recreation committee thought might be interested in taking over, are running a fish derby that day, and are therefore unavailable. Replacing the coordinator of groups and activities has been debated even prior to Lazicki's departure, and now, Coun. Bernice Capjack said, "We have to decide if we're going to do this. If we don't, we can't get anybody to run the Duck Race." Council then passed a motion to hire a recreation coordinator on a contract basis.

GMP bylaw review

Dick Miller and Nigel LaFrance were appointed as citizens-at-large to sit on the General Municipal Plan and Land Use Bylaw review committee with Couns. Capjack, Fraess and Buck.

Tourism

Coun. Fraess explained an opportunity put forward by the Vilna chamber of commerce to partner in a promotion for bike tourism, with $500 buy-ins by communities in northeast Alberta going toward including a Mylar-covered map in the pocket-sized book. Council decided to accept this as information, but not to take part in the promotion at this time.

Geographic Information System

Goyan told council about a regional geographic information system that he had seen a presentation about and felt would be a huge benefit to the public works department, by adding overlays showing water and sewer lines and other features. Grant funding was available to cover initial costs for 2012 and 2013, with an additional charge annually after that time. This matter was referred to public works for their input.

Proclamations

Council proclaimed April 28 as World Day of Mourning and June 4 to 10 as Seniors' Week in Elk Point.

Airport upgrade

Coun. Eugene Buck reported that grant approval has now been received for a major project at the Elk Point airport that will see pavement overlays on the taxiway and runway. It is hoped that this will increase use by recreational flyers as well as business users.

Saskiw shares voters' concerns

By Vicki Brooker
Review Staff

"It looks pretty positive," Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills Wildrose candidate Shane Saskiw said Thursday after a morning of door knocking in the Heinsburg and Lindbergh areas. "A lot of people think it's time for a change, a time to put Albertans first. I'm happy with the response."

Power bills, health care and property rights were among voters' concerns, Saskiw said.

With power bills "the highest in the country," the party is not in favour of spending $16 billion – "more than our healthcare budget" – to build transmission lines "to export power to the United States. All of us would be paying for the lines, but the utility companies would get to charge us to use them. That's not putting Alberta first. Wildrose wouldn't build them if they're not needed."

The use of prepackaged foods in healthcare facilities still rankles with area residents, Saskiw said, "but the government is no longer listening." Wildrose would "go back to empowering local administrations to decide" what would be done in the facilities. Another vital need is to create long-term care beds, "for the seniors waiting in hospital beds to get into extended care," he noted, adding that per-patient costs for hospital beds were approximately three times that of long term care beds.

Saskiw alleges that legislation currently "allows cabinet to take away property rights" without compensation or legal recourse. Wildrose "would pass a property rights preservation act to make sure no government could do that again."

Last week, the party introduced the Wildrose balanced budget and savings act, which would "reduce wasteful spending and lead by example. Families, farmers and seniors have to balance their budgets, and should expect and demand that the government does." He feels overspending "starts at the MLA level," with MLAs voting in pay raises, being paid for committees that rarely meet and receiving large amount of severance pay.

Wildrose also announced a "family pack policy" on Thursday, the first phase offering families "a $2,000 tax credit per child, matching the federal credit," Saskiw said.

Saskiw was also happy to state that both former MP Deborah Grey and local resident Margaret Modin have endorsed him as the Wildrose candidate for this constituency.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

COUNTY OF ST. PAUL
and
TOWN OF ELK POINT

Joint Inter-Municipal Development Plan (IDP)

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the County of St. Paul No. 19 is considering **Bylaw No. 1591**, and the Council of the Town of Elk Point is considering **Bylaw No. 705/12** which are Bylaws to adopt a joint **Inter-Municipal Development Plan (IDP)**.

The Intermunicipal Development Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 631(1) of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000 under the direction of the Council of the Town of Elk Point and the Council of the County of St. Paul No. 19.

The Inter-Municipal Development Plan (IDP) has been developed from a number of discussions, public input, and workshops. Its intent is to outline a cooperative future growth framework for the resolution of planning, economic development, servicing and transportation issues that are of joint interest between the Town of Elk Point and the County of St. Paul No.19. The Plan will also establish a framework for future annexations.

The IDP reflects mutual agreement on growth areas for each municipality. This document outlines policies that apply to lands in the urban fringe and within the Town that are to be used as a framework for decision making in each municipality with input and cooperation of the other jurisdiction. Each municipality is responsible for decisions within their boundaries using the policies and the procedures provided in the Plan.

A copy of the proposed Inter-Municipal Development Plan can be picked up at the Town of Elk Point Office or County of St. Paul Office.

A Public Hearing will be held on **Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as can possibly be arranged at the Town of Elk Point Council Chambers.

For further information, contact Krystle Fedoretz at 780-645-3301, ext 205.

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Keith Kornelsen, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
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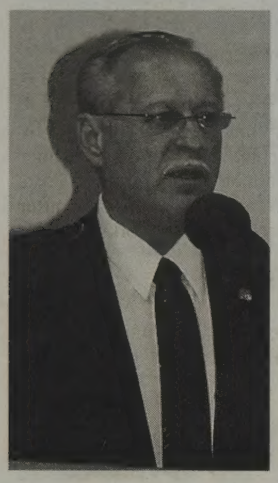
Jack VandenBerg, ASB Field Officer
Phone 780-645-3006, Cell 780-646-0120, Email: jvandenberg@county.stpaul.ab.ca

Firefighters praised at ball

(Continued from Front Page)

"Their enemies had resorted to throwing bombs containing naptha. Hundreds of knights were burned alive. Others risked their lives to save their brothers in arms. These men were our first firefighters."



County Coun. Dwight Dach

The Maltese Cross worn by firefighters "is a you symbol of protection. It means that the firefighter who wears this cross is willing to lay down his or her life for you, just as the Crusaders sacrificed their lives for their fellow man."

Dach said that residents in Elk Point and surrounding area are fortunate for the high caliber of firefighters we have to protect their lives and properties. "When they are performing their duties, they are working full out and more. They work under the most adverse conditions, and their ultimate reward is knowing that they have brought some good to an otherwise bad situation."

Dach praised Fire Chief Ken Palamarek and Deputy Chief Lyle Frisby for an excellent job of provideing the firefighters with the resources they need to serve the public, and the firefighters use the resources "in the most advantageous manner to mitigate the incident. Hats off to all of them. They don't have the multitude of resources at their beck and call that the large centres do."

Fire Chief Palamarek told the crowd his department had answered 86 calls in the town and county, of which 40 were motor vehicle accidents, an amount that is "double from last year."

He said the department is gearing up "in anticipation of a busy grass fire season. The county started issuing fire permits on March 1, a month ahead of usual, but the snow should have helped somewhat."

He was pleased to announce that the volunteer membership has "increased considerably to 23 members, so we have a better turnout in busy times." More volunteers are still welcome to join, he added.

Palamarek said he is "extremely appreciative" of the MLA and the town and county councils that resulted in the building of their seven-bay firehall with wash and change rooms, instruction area and an emergency operations centre for use if a disaster occurred. Firefighters meet each monday for practice, and he invited any interested individuals to "Come and see what it's all about."

He thanked the businesses and individuals for the donation of silent auction items, cash donations and sponsorship and the members and spouses who helped to organize the ball.

"It all helps us to meet our fundraising goals."

County Coun. Glen Ockerman took the microphone briefly to tell the crowd that Coun. Dach has now been elected as chair of the Fire Board, noting "he brings lots of experience to that role."u

Easter Egg Hunt time is here!

Firefighter Mike Ernst said the community will have a perfect opportunity to check out the fire hall for themselves this coming Friday, when the firefighters host their third annual Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast, starting at 9 a.m. The egg hunt will follow the breakfast at approximately 10 a.m., with children divided into age categories, and with one golden egg to be found by each group, qualifying the finder for a larger prize. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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E.D.C Highlights

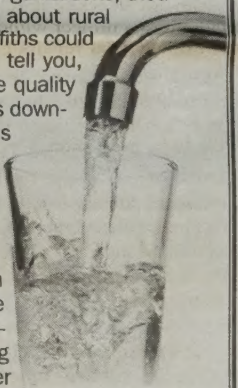
Back in January at our first EDC meeting of 2012, our town manager passed out a book titled "13 Ways to Kill Your Community" which was written by Doug Griffiths and Kelly Clemmer. For those of you who may be wondering what a book titled "13 Ways to Kill Your Community" has to do with Economic Development, let us explain:

"Doug Griffiths has invested a great deal of time and energy traveling to nearly 300 rural communities investigating what should be done by communities and all levels of government to ensure there is a future for rural communities. Success of rural development is only partially the responsibility of the federal, provincial, and municipal governments. Truly, a community's success or failure depends on the initiative that comes from the community itself. Griffiths former life as a school teacher taught him how students were unintentionally sabotaging themselves, in regard to the success of their futures. When Griffiths asked those students what actions they could take today to destroy their futures, suddenly the picture was clearer. The actions they were doing today, by not studying, drinking, or failing tests were direct actions that were going to affect the students' futures. Applying that same concept to communities and how they too sabotage themselves, 13 Ways to Kill Your Community was born."

We have spoken with Doug Griffiths and Kelly Clemmer, and have asked if we could share the details of their book with our community, which they were all too happy to do. Over the course of the next couple of months, we will be sharing their stories so that everyone will be able to recognize what we are doing right, and what we need to work on.

Quality of Water

"The first of 13 Ways that you can do to ensure the failure of your community is to ensure that your community has poor quality and quantity of water."



"Griffiths has traveled all over Alberta, talking to hundreds of organizations, thousands of people, and to hundreds of different communities about rural development. Blindfolded and driven into any community, Griffiths could walk into any home in town, be given a glass of water and tell you, with near-perfect accuracy, the condition of that town. If the quality of water is good, there are new subdivisions, new businesses downtown and a clean Main Street. If the Quality of the water is poor, businesses are closing on Main Street, the downtown core look decrepit; there are many old houses for sale and so on. Don't invest in your community's water quality or quantity if you want your community to fail."

Although the quality of water in Elk Point has always been fairly good, the quantity of water has always been a little sketchy. For a number of years now, our public works department has been setting up a temporary water line in the spring to pump water from the river to fill our reservoir at the water treatment plant. This line is used throughout the spring, summer and into the fall to ensure that we have plenty of water for our town residents. During the fall, our public works department fills the reservoir one last time to the brim and dismantles the line in preparation for winter. Although the current system has served us well, it does not provide us with a 24/7 water supply.

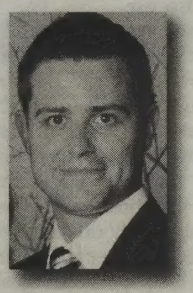
All of this will change this year, with the construction of the new water line from St. Paul to Elk Point. When this line is finished, Elk Point will have a 24/7 water supply, and will be well positioned for future growth. In addition to the new water line, our Council has committed to expanding our sewage lagoon which will allow our town to accommodate another thousand people. The EDC would like to congratulate our Mayor and Council in taking the necessary first steps to ensure our communities survival!

Want to know more? Talk to one of our members today to see how you too can be part of the solution.

Sincerely,
The Elk Point Economic Committee
EDC@elkpoint.ca

Next week's topic: "Don't Attract Business"

Capsule Comments



by Your Natural Choice Apple Drugs pharmacist, Chris Letawsky

- A story out of the U.S. cites Vermont as the healthiest state in the country. This distinction is partially due to a high rate of high school graduation and a low incidence of infectious disease. The other reason was the considerable gains in the number of people who stopped smoking. Incidently, Mississippi was least healthiest in this study.
- April is National Oral Health Month in Canada. The main theme is to highlight the idea that keeping a healthy mouth is an important part of leading a healthy life. Seeing your dentist twice yearly is important and brushing twice daily and flossing at least once daily to remove plaque and reduce the risk of cavities.
- With the numbers of autism cases rising in Canada (up 600% in the past 20 years), research is starting to focus on the gastrointestinal (gi) symptoms of the disorder. Since 70% of autistic children have severe g.i. symptoms there is a theory that the causes of autism might start in the gut. Autism causes much stress in families and it will be a great day when causes and effective treatments are discovered.
- It takes 6 months to grow a complete finger nail and 18 months for a toe nail. The appearance of the finger nail can sometimes indicate a health problem. Brittle, concave nails could indicate a lack of iron. Nails that are separating from the nail bed could mean a hyperactive thyroid gland.
- It's a good idea to build a relationship with your pharmacist just as you do with your doctor. We'd like to be your pharmacist. Drop in soon.

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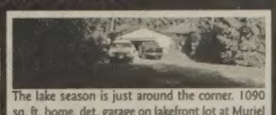
This property features a 1072 sq. ft. bungalow, dbl. det. garage, corrals and dugout on 12/36 acres. MLS 0023393721 **$224,000**



The lake season is just around the corner. 1090 sq. ft. home, det. garage on lakefront lot at Muriel Lake. Use as a full-time residence or as a seasonal cottage home. MLS 0010913333 **$249,500**

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Editorial

Happy Easter

Just for this weekend, let's set aside all the strife and dissention of the provincial political campaign and concentrate on peace and harmony... and perhaps, chocolate.

Insults, name-calling and shady tactics are all things we advise our children not to be involved with, if they're expecting the Easter Bunny to stop by and deliver a load of chocolate, and it might not hurt for candidates to do the same. Chocolate, we're told, improves one's mood.

Sit back, eat chocolate, relax and regroup, everyone.

Way Back When...

Provincials, electrification, pulling together

Here's the news that made the headlines of the Lakeland Review and Elk Point Review for the week of April 3 in...

1987

Elk Point's Development Appeal Board voted against the establishment of a bingo hall in the industrial park, thus effectively rescinding the approval previously granted by the Municipal Planning Commission. A total of 32 ratepayers turned out for the first Town Annual Meeting since 1984, with widening of Highway 41 and street and water main upgrading among the projects discussed.

1992

Elk Point Thunder hosted the Midget 'C' Provincials, with Thunder captain Darcy McLaughlin facing off against Rimbey WestStars captain Brent Nordstrom in the ceremonial faceoff in a game Thunder would win 8 -6, with hat tricks for Kelly Harms and Tyson Stafford and singles for Danny Flett and Jason Pankiw. Tourism topped town council's agenda, with Coun. Adele Mandryk giving a comprehensive report on the Tourism Industry of Alberta conference, which she said was "an incredible opportunity to promote our town and northeast Alberta."

1997

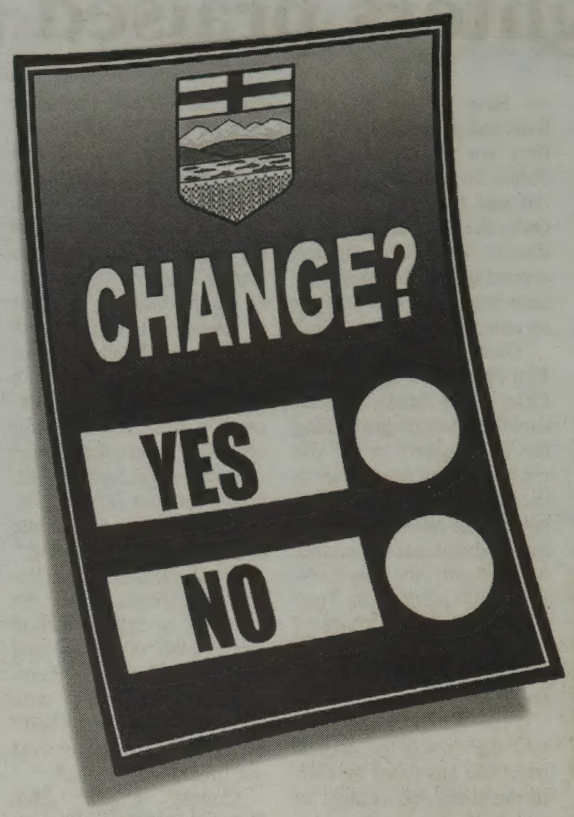
Rural electrification pioneers Wesley Scott, Walter Shankowski, Martin Aarbo and Gunther May, along with representatives of late members Ron Flanders, Bill Slywka and Don Pinder, were presented with awards, with Alex Smereka, Paul Pinder, Vic Scott, Bengt Johnson and representatives of late members Walter Pilisko and Gus Hellquist unable to attend the event marking 50 years of rural electrification. "Name That Book" and "Madame Zena's Séance" were presented by an all-star cast of Elk Point Elementary School thespians at the school's annual drama night.

2002

It was not a very Good Friday for Elk Point firefighters, or for the residents of a home in downtown Elk Point who lost two pets in an early morning fire that gutted the building. Twenty community groups conferred at a forum hosted by the chamber of commerce after president Glenn Harms "heard about a lot of groups which are short of funds and are just overwhelmed," in hopes of "pulling together to create income for the groups."

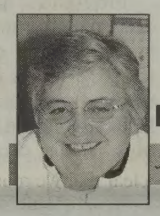
2002

The final curtain fell on nine sellout performances of "Tons of Money," the Elk Point Community Choir and Friends' 2007 dinner theatre rendition of the 1920s British farce. With news already out that grant approval had been given for the conversion of a former warehouse to elk Point's Arts and Leisure Centre, Mayor Parrish Tung invited MLA Ray Danyluk to the town's community information meeting, where Danyluk told the small crowd, "Projects can't all happen at once; there's only so much money to go around."



Guest Column

Camouflage



deanna **EASTHOPE**
from the FCSS desk

Basically, the word "camouflage" means to conceal by means of disguise. When we think about camouflage we may think of all the examples in nature. In nature, every advantage increases an animal's chances of survival, and therefore chances of reproducing. This simple fact has caused animal species to evolve a number of special adaptations that help them find food and keep them from becoming food.

But, guess what? People also use camouflage to their advantage and or protection. This week is the "Holy Week", and Christians understand and celebrate the importance of this week. However, it is also a time to celebrate the Easter Bunny, colored eggs, or chocolate eggs, etc. etc. Now why does this type of celebration take place at the same time? Actually, there is a reason. It would have been suicide for the very early Christian converts to celebrate their holy days with observances that did not coincide with celebrations that already existed. To save lives, the missionaries cleverly decided to spread their religious message slowly throughout the populations by allowing them to continue to celebrate pagan feasts, but to do so in a Christian manner. Thus, Easter Camouflage was born.

The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with an uproarious festival commemorating their goddess of offspring and of springtime, Eastre. The Easter Bunny is not a modern invention. The symbol originated with the pagan festival of Eastre. The goddess, Eastre, was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol, the rabbit. The Easter bunny has its origin in pre-Christian fertility lore. The Hare and the Rabbit were the most fertile animals known and they served as symbols of the new life during the spring season.

From the earliest times, the egg was a symbol of rebirth in most cultures. Eggs were often wrapped in gold leaf or, if you were a peasant, colored brightly by boiling them with the leaves or petals of certain flowers. The Germans brought the symbol of the Easter rabbit and the story of the eggs to America. German settlers believed a white hare would leave brightly colored eggs for all good children on Easter morning. Early American children built nests of leaves and sticks in their gardens for the Easter Hare to fill with colored eggs. By the 19th century in America, the Easter Hare had become the Easter Bunny delighting children with baskets of eggs, chocolates, candy chicks, jelly beans and other gifts on Easter morning. The song: "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" tells this story. This popular Easter song was composed in 1950 by Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins. I will only quote the first few verses.

Here comes Peter Cottontail
Hoppin' down the bunny trail,
Hippity hoppity,
Easter's on its way
Bringin' ev're girl and boy
A basketful of Easter joy
Things to make your Easter
Bright and gay
He's got jelly beans for Tommy
Colored eggs for Sister Sue
There's an orchid for your mommy
And an Easter bonnet too. Oh!
Here' comes Peter Cottontail
Hoppin' down the bunny trail
Hippity hoppity
Happy Easter Day.

Whether you choose to celebrate with the popular camouflage or the Christian Easter significance or both, may I say Happy Easter everyone!

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

Elk Point Review

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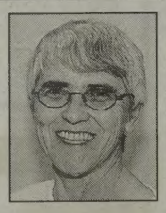
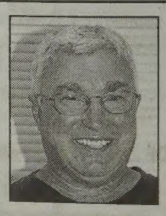

Vicki Brooker
EDITOR

Melanie McRae
SALES
FRONT DESK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Novice Avs win gold in Edmonton

doug BASSETT
Review Sports

Not everyone was ready to shut it down. During the spring break this past Friday afternoon the die hard Novice Avalanche took a major road trip for the weekend, off to the bright lights of Edmonton playing in a tournament there, playing a little hockey, sleeping over, going to the mall for shopping of course, but the best part of all, they came home Sunday night after winning the gold medal in B side final.

The first game Friday at 4p.m. the Avalanche may have been a little rusty not having played in two weeks, when they met up against St. Albert, but it was also a team that went undefeated this season. The Avalanche losing this one, but it was close, the final 4 to 2. Charlie" Little Angel" Rogal and Jaden" Jet Stream" Van Maarion scoring the goals for the Avalanche.

Early Saturday morning at 8 am the team played a team out of Calgary. Another tough team, this team was the top team in their league. A real nail biter this one ended in a 4 all tie, the Avalanche scoring with only 23 seconds on the clock to tie it up. A hat trick for "Lightning Liam" Ludlage, who also assisted on the goal by the "Jet Stream".

Saturday afternoon the Avalanche played against the host team the Edmonton Eagles, the Eagles flying high, taking this one 4 to 1. The lone goal scored by the big power forward Odin" the Wall" Smith assisted by "Lightning Liam" and the "Little Angel".

The most exciting game was on Sunday, the B final the Avalanche winning 2 to 0. Goalie Ronan" Radar" Poulin was awesome, scrambling around from post to post, he posted the shutout. "Danny Boy" Cardinal driving one home assisted by Jenna "Precious" Poitras and "Jet Stream" scoring assisted by "Lightning Liam'. It should be noted that "Danny Boy" had been sick on Saturday morning and almost didn't stay to play the rest of the tournament, but he suited up again, and we're glad he did. And on another note, Jadey" the Lady" Capjack taking a trip over to the sin bin for tripping, but that likely saved the team a goal. All the kids and parents totally loved the tournament; it was a wonderful way to end a wonderful season, going out with a gold medal around their necks!

I've been taken a lot of flack this past week about the Leafs missing the playoffs once again, seven year in a row now since they have played in the post season. Seven years of bad luck. Someone in their management must have broken a mirror. Even my own son is giving me the gears. He texted me to say that he thinks that the way they have playing lately, they must be taking a run at the first overall draft pick, because how else could any team be so bad. I figure if they got the first pick they would only trade it away like usual. Anyway thanks to all of my good buddy's for the great Leafs jokes they have been sending me. I love them all, and especially the one where their new coach Randy Carlyle is pointing to the golf course map on the wall with his players in a semi circle and going over their playoff strategy, and the one outside a bar that reads free drinks during the Leaf playoff games. I can't help it, I love the Leafs, and it can't be any other way, when you have true blue in your blood it's there to stay. Besides who wants to be stuck inside watching hockey when ball season is just around the corner and....."THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR!"

Speaking of ball, on this Thursday when you pick up the kids after school, if you haven't already done so, stop in at the A.G Ross Arena from 4p.m. to 7 p.m., and you can register for ball.

And now for the K.A.Campbell quote of the week. "A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst and it sparks extraordinary results." Last week's answer to- "Developing better people should be the number one goal for any coach when dealing with kids. In trying to develop better people, we are going to develop more and better pros:" – Bobby Orr. Have a sports scoop? Now you can email them to sportshound007@hotmail.com

First week of campaign went well, Danyluk says

By Tim Banman
Review Contributor

The first week of the campaign went well, Danyluk said before the official ribbon cutting at his St. Paul campaign office.

Danyluk has been the MLA for the constituency for 11 years.

"My commitment has always been to the community. My commitment has been to the people of this constituency and I very much believe that what we need to do is grow this constituency because the economic environment is growing," Danyluk said.

"It's about people. It's about individuals. It's about students, giving them opportunity and access, whether it's primary or secondary education. It's about seniors, seniors being able to live in this community and being proud to be here and having the services that are necessary."

On the campaign trail last week, Danyluk said he has had discussions with voters on land rights. Danyluk said a lot of "fallacies" have been put forward regarding land rights "which aren't depicting exactly where the government is."

Danyluk said he is one of 30 landowners in caucus and would not give up his land rights, nor the land rights of his children.

Last week, Premier Alison Redford said she expected all PC MLAs to pay back "every penny of money received" from sitting on the committee on privileges, elections, standing orders and printing, in a press release. Twenty-one MLAs have been paid $1,000 per month. The committee has not met since 2008, leading many to call it the "no-meet committee."

Prior to Redford's announcement, caucus determined members would pay back $6,000 for six months since Redford became premier.

While Bonnyville – Cold Lake MLA Genia Leskiw sits on the committee, Danyluk has not sat on a committee since 2008 when he became a minister.

Redford also suspended "overly generous" transition allowances paid to retiring MLAs and said she would not take her own "win, lose or draw."

Transition allowances replaced a pension plan in the early 1990s and are based on three months pay for every year a MLA serves.

"Leadership is about making decisions; sometimes difficult decisions and sometimes, admitting you were wrong," the release on Redford's website states.

"MLA Compensation has been broken for a long time. That is why I asked former Supreme Court Justice John Major to take a comprehensive look at how MLAs are paid. At that time I made clear that we must move to a system in which elected officials are paid the way Albertans are paid."

Danyluk supports Justice John Major's review of how MLAs are paid. "That's what's necessary."

"Premier Redford made it very clear that she was stopping the transitions allowance as of the other day and I agree with that. Do I have some transition allowance that's banked up? Yes I do," said Danyluk.

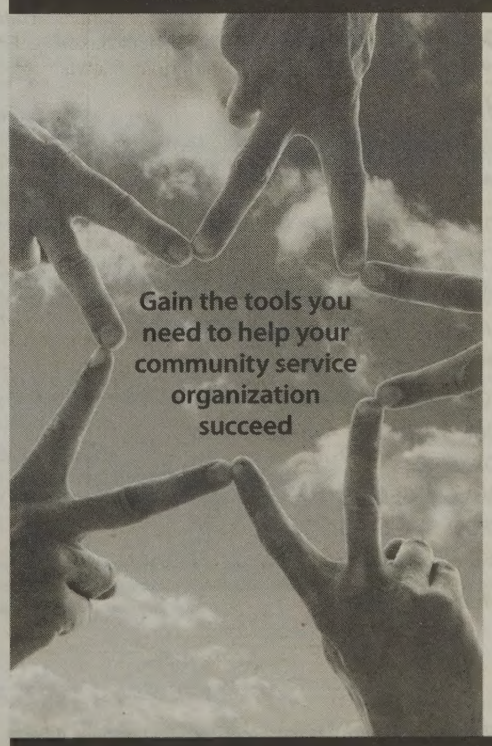
Danyluk said he will live with by Justice Major's decision "very gladly," adding he is challenged by MLAs and cabinet deciding what their salaries should be. "I always thought the pension direction was probably the best way to go," he said.

Danyluk announced Redford will speak at an event at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre on April 20, where country singer Brett Kissel will perform. Tickets are $20.

Spring is just around the corner so let's
PLAY BALL REGISTRATION
Sunday, April 1st from 1-4 pm
& Thursday, April 5 from 4-7 pm
at A.G. Ross Arena
ELK POINT MINOR BALL
Forms are available at:
Library - 5123-50 Ave. or both schools
Coaches and Umpires are required.
Ph. Dennell Anderson 780-614-0789

Attend the Two-Day
UMPIRE CLINIC
at A.G. Ross Arena at 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 14 & Sunday, April 15

2012 ATCO
Community Symposium
Building Better Communities



Join us for an enlightening one-day symposium for community service organizations and non-profits of every kind. Guest speakers will address recruiting and retaining volunteers, media relations, the power of storytelling, grassroots fundraising and much more.

Whether you're an executive director, town councillor or community volunteer, learn innovative strategies and practical tips to inspire success.

REGISTER BY **MAY 7, 2012**

$45 per person (includes lunch)

For more information and registration form, visit atcogas.com or atcoelectric.com

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Two locations to choose from:
BONNYVILLE, **MAY 15** or PEACE RIVER, **MAY 17, 2012**
ATCO Gas ATCO Electric

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
of the ST. PAUL & DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LTD.
CO-OP
Date: Wednesday, May 9, 2012
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Co-op Mall Cafeteria, St. Paul, AB.
Dessert & Coffee Served at 7:00 p.m.
Anyone wishing to run for the BOARD OF DIRECTORS should submit their name to the Co-op Administration Office.

VOTING MADE SIMPLE

Monday, April 23, 2012 Provincial General Election and Senate Nominee Election

Voting will take place to elect Members of the Legislative Assembly and Senate Nominees. Voting hours are from 9 am to 8 pm.

Additions to the Voters List may be made beginning March 31, 2012 during regular office hours by contacting the Returning Officer: Linda Ference in Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills. Revisions will conclude on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 4 pm.

Candidate Nomination Papers for the Provincial General Election must be filed with the Returning Officer during office hours, beginning immediately and concluding at 2 pm on April 9, 2012. Candidate Nomination Papers for the Senate Nominee Election must be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta by 2 pm on April 9, 2012.

Returning Officer Office hours: 9 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 10 am to 4 pm Saturday.

If you would like to work on Voting Day, apply at **www.elections.ab.ca**.

Advance Voting will take place from 9 am to 8 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from April 19, 2012 to April 21, 2012

These Advance Polls offer level access.

Heritage Lodge
5338 50 Avenue
Elk Point

Lac Alta Lodge
9118 Beaver Hill Road
Lac La Biche

Hillside Seniors Lodge
4801 53 Avenue
Two Hills

Returning Officer Office
Unit 3, 4329 50 Avenue
St. Paul

Special Ballot Applications

Available from the Returning Officer throughout the election period for electors who will be unable to vote in advance or on Voting Day because of:

- physical incapacity
- absence from the electoral division
- imprisonment
- election officer, candidate, official agent or scrutineer responsibilities, away from his or her own polling place
- residency in a remote area

Electoral Division of Lac La Biche-St.Paul-Two Hills

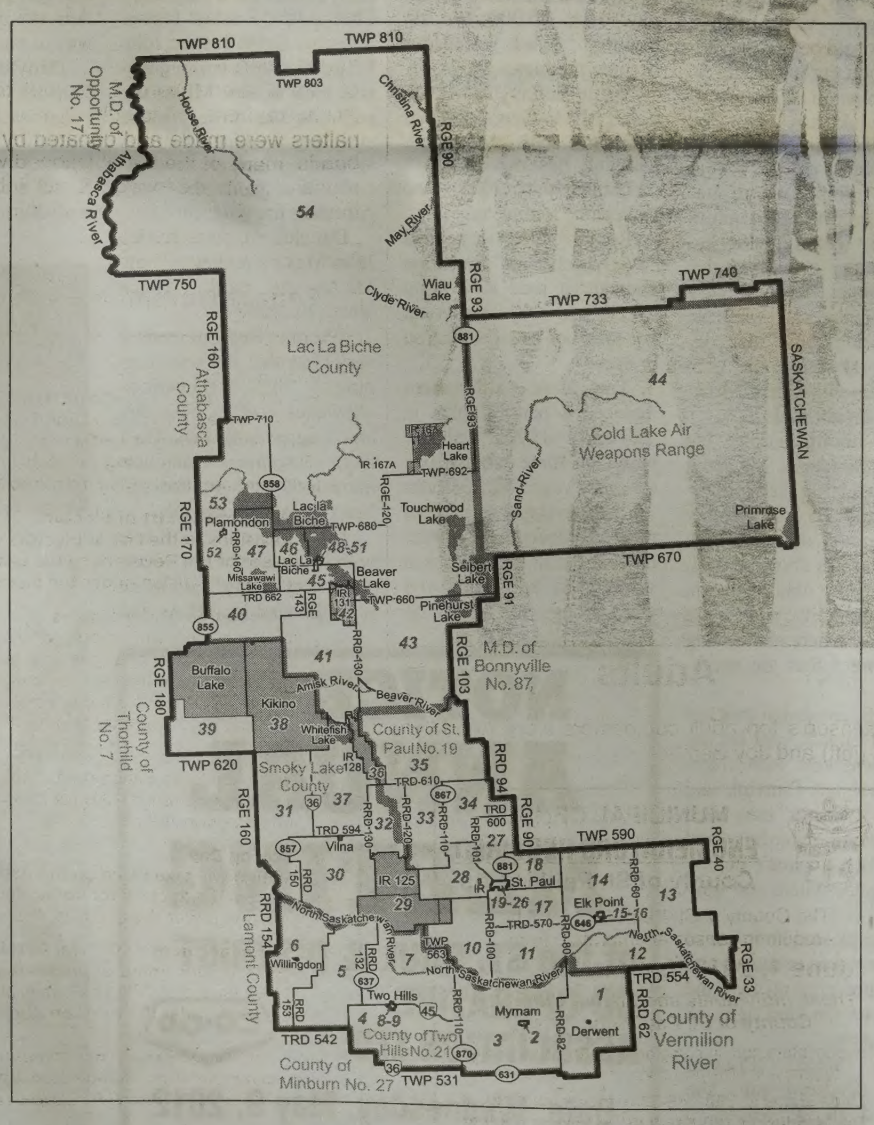
Watch this newspaper for polling place information or visit our website.

Announcement of the Official Count

10 am on May 3, 2012 at the Office of the Returning Officer for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills

Returning Officer: Linda Ference
Address: Unit 3, 4329 50 Avenue
St. Paul, T0A 3A3
Phone: (780) 614-6581
Toll Free: (855) 546-5295
Email: ro65@elections.ab.ca

The office has level access.



The Election Act requires that Third Party Advertisers must register with Elections Alberta if they spend more than $1000 in election advertising. More information is available on our website.

VOTING MADE SIMPLE
Find out more at ***www.elections.ab.ca***

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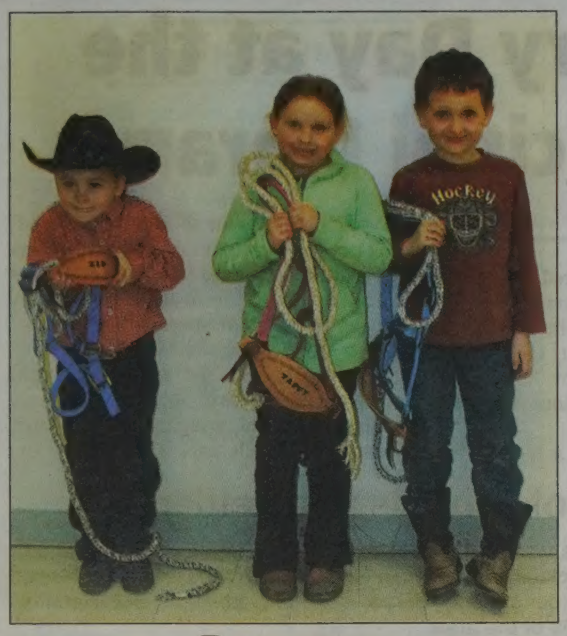
Winter Gymkhana series winds up



Peewees

Peewee competitors proudly displaying their trophy halters were, left to right: Trey Nowosad, Kennedy Hebert and Karson McKenzie.

Adults

The season's top adult competitors were Ann-MArie Russ (left) and Joy Bamber.

Vicki Brooker photos

Youths take home trophy halters

Young riders who gathered the top points in this year's winter series of five gymkhanas at the C. G. Baker Memorial Arena were, back, left to right: Adrian Russ, Emily Russ, Colten Bamber, Macey Drobot, Riley Pashulka; front, left to right: Walker Balan and Carter Balan; not shown, Bailey Brooks. Lead shanks for all the halters were made and donated by Malcolm McKenzie, while Glen Peterson created the tooled leather nose bands, many of them emblazoned with the names of the riders' favourite horses. All the competitors offered a round of applause to organizers Ruby Braconnier and Tera-Lee Drobot, announcer Mary Balan, the arena help and all the parents who assisted throughout the season.

MUNICIPAL CENSUS
ENUMERATORS REQUIRED
County of St. Paul No. 19

The County of St. Paul No. 19 will be requiring census enumerators from

June 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012

These individuals should live within the County of St. Paul boundaries.

Anyone interested in being an enumerator are asked to phone in with your contact information to:

Linda Meger @ 780-645-3301 extension (212) or Tim Mahdiuk @ 780-645-3301 extension (204) or you can e-mail your contact information to countysp@county.stpaul.ab.ca

The remuneration for this position is as follows:

Flat rate of $5.00 per household
Mileage reimbursement - $.50/km

Successful candidates will be contacted the week of May 21st to commence their orientation and training.

We thank you for your interest in helping the County of St. Paul conduct our 2012 Census.

Senate Nominee Election

Proclamation
For the purpose of electing three (3) persons according to the *Senatorial Selection Act* whose names are to be submitted by the Government of Alberta to the Queen's Privy Council for Canada as persons who may be summoned to the Senate of Canada for the purpose of filling vacancies relating to Alberta, Public Notice is hereby given to the electors that the following are fixed pursuant to the *Senatorial Selection Act*:

- **Revisions to List of Electors**
  Revisions to the List of Electors will be conducted at the locations, dates and times fixed for the Revisions to the List of Electors for the next general election in each electoral division under the *Election Act*.
- **Nomination of Candidates**
  Commencing immediately and continuing until 2:00 p.m. on the date fixed for nominations for the next general election under the *Election Act*, unless that day falls on a Sunday or holiday, nomination papers may be filed with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer during normal business hours at #100, 11510 Kingsway NW in Edmonton, Alberta for a candidate under the *Senatorial Selection Act*.
- **Advance Polls**
  Advance Polls will be held at the locations designated and on the dates and hours fixed for Advance Polls for the next general election in each electoral division under the *Election Act*.
- **Polling Day**
  Voting will take place on the date and at the hours fixed at which polling places will open and close for voting for the next general election in each electoral division under the *Election Act*.
- **Announcement of Official Results**
  The announcement of official results will take place at the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer 10 days after the polling date fixed for the next general election under the *Election Act*.

Additional information concerning the Senate Nominee Election may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (#100, 11510 Kingsway NW in Edmonton, Alberta: (780) 427-7191), or from the returning officer in the applicable Electoral Division.

Issued Monday, March 26, 2012 by_____

O. Brian Fjeldheim, Chief Electoral Officer

elections alberta

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History Day at the Municipal Library

By Vicki Brooker
Review Staff

Close to 40 people explored our area's past last Wednesday at Elk Point Municipal Library when local history buffs Marvin Bjornstad and Ray Hellquist, along with members of the Elk Point Historical Society, shared their collections with the community.

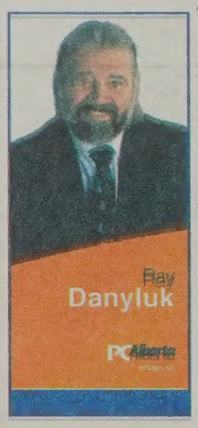
Among the displays was a request for information sent to the society by the granddaughter and grandniece of early settlers Ray and Lark Howard who hoped to learn more about their life in the early days. A surprising amount of information came forward as stories were shared.

Bjornstad hoped the afternoon would spark more interest in the Historical Society, and it did, bringing him a number of e-mails and calls since then.

History of schools and settlers

Ray Hellquist displayed his wealth of one-room school information and memorabilia, including photos and class lists, to Ernie Poitras, Larry and Norma Lorenson (left) and Anna Robertson (bottom left). Below, Irene Lindquist and Bob Hendriks explore some old-time maps of the area.

Vote for Passionate Representation and a Proven Record.



"I am a proud rural Albertan. It has been my privilege to serve this community as a volunteer and as your elected representative."

Ray's Experience:

- Farmer/rancher in northeastern Alberta since 1973
- Longtime advocate for farmers and surface rights
- Leadership roles with Alberta Beef Producers and REAs
- School board trustee and chairman
- County councillor and reeve
- Your MLA and representative since 2001
- Four Cabinet portfolios; currently Minister of Transportation

"I believe in building stronger communities by working in partnership with you. Together, we have accomplished great things."

Our Accomplishments:

- **Fire Hall** – built with provincial MSI funding
- **Community Facilities** – Allied Arts Centre, Regional Library, Eco Centre, Historic Park and Trail system
- **FG Miller High School** – renovation and gymnasium upgrade
- **Transportation** – Northern Valley Road and Krider Road
- **Recreation** – new and upgraded playgrounds/parks; golf course improvements
- **Heinsburg** – hall/seniors' club/historic site upgrades
- **Walking trail** – approved to be built from Elk Point townsite to golf course

Reject fear and negativity. Reinvest in our community.

"There is no better place to live than right here in Alberta. We are taking on the challenges of growth and making the right decisions now for an even better future."

Know the Facts

- **Fiscal Responsibility** – Balanced budget next year. No new taxes. We will continue to build the schools, roads and hospitals we need.
- **Electricity Prices** – To stabilize prices and remain competitive, we have frozen extra charges on your bill until an independent review of the system is completed.
- **Property Rights** – Our legislation is about planning for the future and minimizing impacts on private land. If any land is ever required for public use, you have the right to consultation, compensation and access to the courts.

"I will continue to listen to you and be a strong advocate for this constituency. There is so much that we can achieve together."

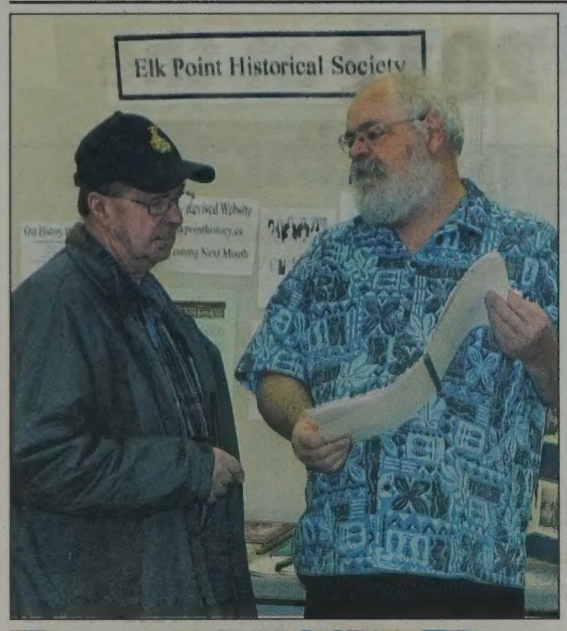
Future Priorities

- **Five Mile Junction** – improve intersection to increase safety
- **Highway 631** – complete remainder of paving
- **Highway 646** – resurfacing is required from Elk Point to Heinsburg
- **Water line** – complete the approved line from St. Paul to Elk Point
- **Heinsburg bridge** – intersection improvements/lighting

Authorized by the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta, 9823 – 103 St NW, Edmonton AB T5K 0X5, 780-423-1624

Re-Elect Ray Danyluk.

Rural Roots, Real Results
PC Alberta
danyluk.votepc.ca



History Day

Elk Point Historical Society has collected local facts and memorabilia since the mid-1970s. At top left, Marvin Bjornstad shows fellow historian Bob Hendriks one of many volumes the society has produced. Below, he, Laverne Wilson and Gordon Kuhn share a chuckle over a book remembering Pat Johnson. Below right, Irene Lindquist and Marjorie Scott sort clippings from the archives, while at right, Bjornstad, Ernie Poitras and Roy Scott identify cowboys in a long-ago photo.

VOTE 2012

Provincial Election All Candidates Forum

Monday, April 9, 2012

from 7 - 9 pm

St. Paul Seniors Centre 4809 - 47 Street

This is your opportunity to meet and hear from Lac La Biche - St. Paul - Two Hills Constituency candidates.

Ray Danyluk

pcAlberta

Phil Johnson

Alberta's NDP

John Nowak

Alberta Liberal

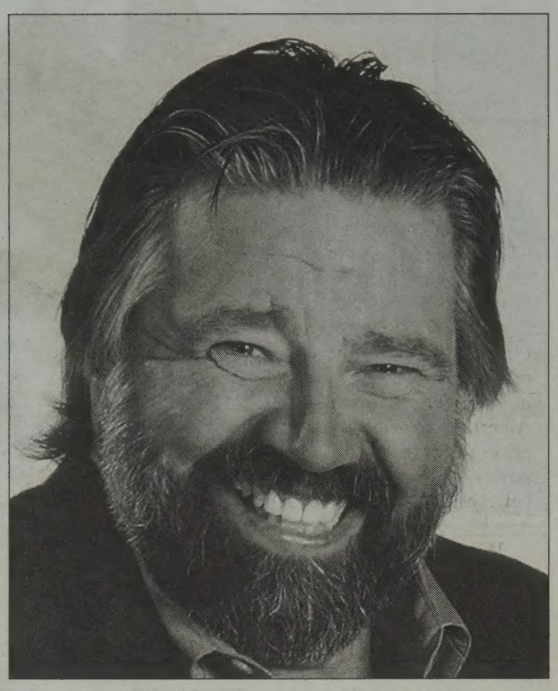
Shayne Saskiw

WILDROSE

Sponsored by: St. Paul Journal, St. Paul & District Chamber of Commerce & The Spur 97.7

Provincial Election 2012

Ray Danyluk – PC Alberta



Hometown – Elk Point
Current town – Elk Point
Current occupation – MLA/minister and farmer-rancher in the Elk Point area

Why run in this election? Danyluk believes Alberta is an exciting place to be with a lot of activity taking place. Alberta is the economic driver for Canada and this region in particular is really exciting at this time, he says.

Why support the PC party? Danyluk has been a PC MLA for 11 years. He says the party continues to express the values of Albertans and the party understands issues that are important to Albertans, such as education and health care.

Why support Alison Redford? Danyluk sees Redford as a strong leader who is articulate and intelligent. She has a good understanding of issues important to Alberta. Redford is a diplomat and an ambassador for the province nationally and internationally. Danyluk says Redford truly cares about the future of the province.

What experience/education makes you the right person for the job? Danyluk was raised in the constituency and graduated from Racette School in St. Paul. Prior to being elected as MLA, he volunteered in the area and was the reeve for the County of St. Paul and chair of the local school board. He also sat on the Alberta Beef Producers and represented farmers in surface and land rights with the EUB (Alberta Energy and Utilities Board). Since being MLA, Danyluk has also served in four portfolios as a minister, first with Municipal Affairs and Housing, then Municipal Affairs, followed by Infrastructure and lastly, Transportation.

What three issues do you feel are on Albertans minds during this election? Danyluk says this election is firstly about access and opportunity and there are a number of things that provide opportunity and draw people to live in Alberta. Education and Health care are part of creating opportunity, but are also issues on Albertans' minds.

pcAlberta

Phil Johnson – Alberta's NDP

Hometown – Lac La Biche
Current home – Edmonton
Current occupation – Constituency manager for NDP MLA Rachel Notley in Edmonton-Strathcona.

Why run in this election? Johnson says he has a passion for politics and community development, especially for this area. When the NDP asked Johnson to run he decided to do it.

Why do you support the NDP? The party fits Johnson's values since he believes in having a strong social safety net while also being fiscally responsible. Johnson supports the vision that in the future there can be a society without gross disparities and he also believes in a cleaner environment.

Why support Brian Mason? Johnson says he supports Mason because he has the most experience of all the leaders right now. Johnson says Mason has a good track record in representing his constituents and there are a lot of other good things behind him. Mason has been at the forefront of all the important issues in Alberta lately, says Johnson.

What experience/education make you the right person for the job? Johnson feels that his job working in a constituency office for three years has given him insight into how politics works. He has seen where there is waste and understands that advocating for constituents is important. His university education in politics, economics and science are also a benefit.

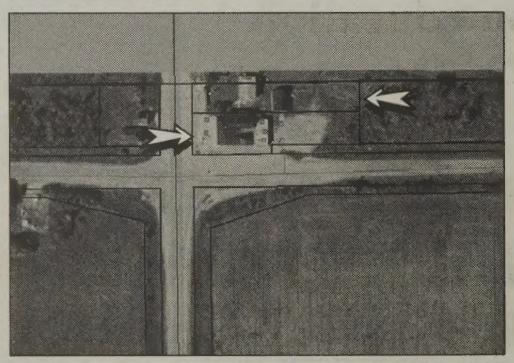
What three issues do you feel are on Albertans minds during this election? Health care, electricity and oil royalties.

Alberta's NDP

NOTICE
COUNTY OF ST. PAUL NO. 19

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the County of St. Paul No. 19 is considering a **Bylaw No. 1593** which is a Bylaw to amend Land Use Bylaw No. 1486, as it relates to zoning of the following land:

2 Lots in PSW 16-56-3-W4
Proposed rezoning from Agricultural to Industrial/Commercial



A Public Hearing will be held on **Tuesday, April 10, 2012** at 11:30 a.m. or as soon thereafter as can possibly be arranged, at the County Office in St. Paul.

Copies of the Bylaw and Plan may be inspected during normal office hours at the County Office.

For further information, contact the County Office at 780-645-3301.

Krystle Fedoretz,
Planning & Development Officer
County of St. Paul No. 19
5015 - 49 Avenue, St. Paul, AB., T0A 3A4

Learn more about the candidates at these upcoming events:

Wednesday, April 4 -
Candidates Meet & Greet on Education, 7 - 9 p.m.
Regional High School, St. Paul
Monday, April 9 -
All Candidates Forum
St. Paul Seniors Centre, 7 - 9 p.m.

MUNICIPAL CENSUS
ATTENTION RESIDENTS
County of St. Paul No. 19

The County of St. Paul No. 19 is conducting a 2012 census as of May 1, 2012. The purpose of this census is to collect accurate information to ensure that the municipality receives the appropriate grants from the Provincial and Federal government that are based on a population count. Any information collected will only be used for those purposes for which it is collected. All information collected in the census will not be disclosed for any other purpose and will be protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the County Office at (780) 645-3301.

The newspaper WORKS For You.

ELK POINT REVIEW

5022 - 49 Avenue, Elk Point, AB
Phone 780-724-4087
Fax 780-724-4087
Box 309, Elk Point, AB T0A 1A0

- Features news and pictures of people and events you care about.
- Has advertising - commercial information - that can save you shopping time and dollars right in your community.
- Provides a forum for your views in letters to the editor.
- Is involved as an active business in the vital commercial fabric of your community.

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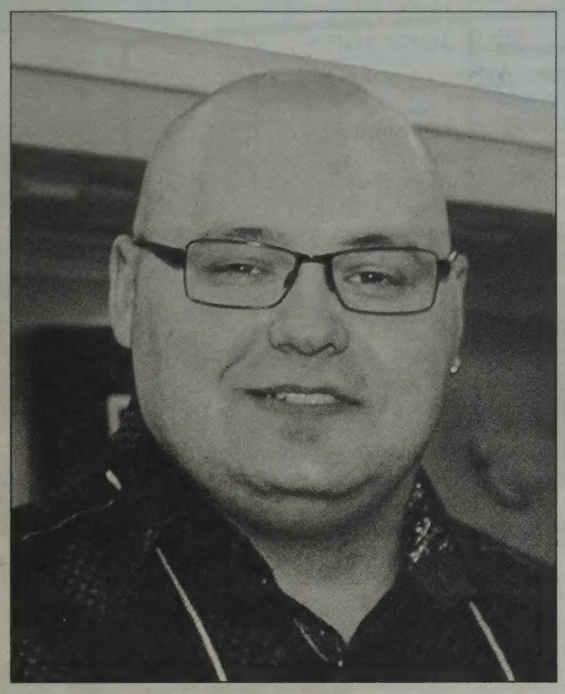
Provincial Election 2012

John Nowak – Alberta Liberals



Hometown – Born in St. Paul and grew up in the Rich Lake area.
Current home – Lac La Biche
Current occupation – Owns and operates a small gym in Lac La Biche, sits on the Lac La Biche County council for Ward 7, works at CPI Service as a northeast sales rep.

Why run in this election? Nowak is in his second term in municipal politics and says that when he first decided to run as councillor it was because he was sad about the situation in Lac La Biche. There was a general unrest being felt, he says. Nowak has the same reason for running provincially. He says he is tired of the fear, intimidation and lies.

Why support the Liberals? The Liberal policy is geared toward protecting the average, every day Albertan, says Nowak. The Liberals believe in strong health care and education systems. He believes Alberta has enough money to go around and that Albertans should have the best of everything.

Why support Raj Sherman? Dr. Sherman is a brilliant man, says Nowak, who believes that Sherman did not get into politics for any personal gain. He actually cares about the future of the province, says Nowak. Sherman has also shown integrity, which Nowak supports.

What experience/education makes you the right person for the job? Nowak points to his experience in municipal politics and believes one of the biggest things he has to offer is that although he understands how politics work, he is not willing to play the game. He believes in being open and transparent and describes himself as an idealist.

What three issues do you feel are on Albertans minds during this election? Power regulation, land use and healthcare/education on the social end.

Shayne Saskiw – Wildrose

Hometown – Two Hills
Current town – Two Hills
Current occupation – Practices law, executive director of Wildrose party, advocates for taxpayers.

Why run in this election? Saskiw was previously the VP of policy for the PC party. He feels the government is out of touch and no longer listening to Albertans. Saskiw sees a government that has been in power for 42 years and believes it's time for some new blood and new ideas.

Why support the Wildrose? Saskiw says the Wildrose represents small 'c' conservative values, which means smaller government, lower taxes and less regulations. He supports decisions being made at a local level.

Why support Danielle Smith? Saskiw says Smith has a tremendous vision for this province. She's charismatic, has a solid policy mind and is very articulate, says Saskiw. He feels Smith will be able to advocate for Albertans nationally and internationally. He also supports her idea to have free votes in the legislature so MLAs aren't required to vote along party lines.

What experience/education makes you the right person for the job? Saskiw has worked in policy for the provincial party and also grew up on the farm outside of Two Hills. He has been the executive director of the Wildrose Party since June, 2011, although he has delegated duties during the campaign. He advocates for taxpayers and essentially stands up for people when no one else will. He also believes that as MLA, his bosses would be the constituents.

What three issues do you feel are on Albertans minds during this election? Power bills and a projected increase with the construction of transmissions lines, health care and a lack of long-term care, and restoring property rights.

A UNRESERVED AUCTIONS

SAT., APRIL 14 - 11:00 A.M. - ESTATE OF GIL GARNER - ELK POINT - PH. 780-724-3657

LOCATION: From Elk Point 1 mile West on Armitice Rd. **KUBOTA TRACTOR, QUAD & YARD EQUIP.:** • **KUBOTA** L3430 Hydrostatic 4x4 TRACTOR, cab, 1397hrs., 33hp., c/w FEL, 2 hyds., PTO, 3pt. hitch, V.G. Cond. • 6' Back Blade • Kubota L2174A - 72" Snowblower • Tram 54" 3pt. Mower • **BOMBARDIER TRAXTER** Max XT 4x4 Quad, c/w winch, windshield, V.G. One Owner • HONDA TRIKE • 10'X20' Portable Poly Shelter • Post Pounder **FLATDECK TRAILER & CAMPER:** • 18' T/A Ball hitch FLAT DECK **TRAILER**, c/w 2-7000lb. Axles, winch, ramps • older 10' **CAMPER** c/w hyd. jacks **WOOD WORKING EQUIP.:** • CANWOOD 1hp. **Dust Collector** • MASTERCRAFT 12" **Planer** • MASTERCRAFT **Wood Lathe** • MASTERCRAFT **Air Nailer** • ROCKWELL BEAVER 6" **Jointer Planer** • 10" Table Saw • DEWALT Radial Arm Saw • ROCKWELL **Belt Sander** • Various Routers • 2 Work Mates • 20 Saw Blades • Skill & Scroll Saws • Hand & Air Tools **PIPE, & MISC. STEEL:** • Approx. 50 lengths of 3 1/2" Drill Stem • Variety of Scrap Iron • Railroad Ties **OLDER FARM EQUIP.:** • JD 7' Trail Type Sickle Mower • IH #4 Mower • International 7' - 3pt. Sickle Mower • BEARCAT Hammermill • 10 sec. Harrows & Drawbar • Old V. Plow • Cable Weeder • **PLUS SHOP TOOLS & MISC., CLEAN SALE**

SUN., APRIL 15 - ANTIQUE SALE 10 A.M. - GORDON KUHN - ELK POINT - PH. 780-645-0163

LOCATION: Elk Point Arts & Leisure Centre - 4605-57 Ave. - **Breakfast Available** **ANTIQUE FURNITURE:** • **GRAMAPHONES** - Floor & Table Models • Mahogany **Display Cabinet c.1880** • **Grandfather Clock c. 1820** • Wood & Glass Display Case **c.1900** • Lg. Oak Cabinet c/w Leaded Glass • Sm. English Oak & Glass **China Cabinet** • 2 Walnut **Corner Cabinets** • Lg. Mahogany **Bookcase c.1900** • Newer **Mission Style Oak Bookcase** c/w Glass Doors • Solid Oak **Cupboard** c/w Glass **c.1900** • Pine c/w Glass c.1880 • Sm, White **Cupboard** with Enamel Workspace • Lg. 2 Door Oak **Cupboard** c/w Glass Doors **From U Of A Lab** • Lg. Primitive **Cupboard** painted blue • **WASHSTANDS** • Oak Drop Front **Desk** • Mahogany Library Table • **Bedroom Suite** - Walnut Bed And Vanity c/w stool • **Piano Stools**, Including 2 Clawfoot • **Tea Trolleys** • Rocking Chairs • **Spinning Wheels** • **SEWING MACHINES** - Antique Oak White Treadle, **Reliance** Treadle, **Eatonia** Treadle, Hand Crank Tabletop, **Singer** Featherweight • **DINING ROOM FURNITURE** - Numerous Chairs & Tables, 8 Piece Mahogany Suite including Table c/w 3 Leaves, 6 Chairs & 50" Sideboard • Numerous **Small Tables** • **MOTION LAMPS** - Forrest Fire & Niagara Falls • Antique **Dentist Chair** • **Burl** Walnut **Games Table c.1880** • Mahogany Fold Over **Games Table c.1810** **INSTRUMENTS, SIGNAGE & PUMPS:** • **Accordians** • **Violins** • **Clarinet** • **Mandolin** • **White Rose** Sign • 3 Piece **Gasoline** • **Motor Oil** Includes 2 - 10' Wings & 4' Centre Sign • 2 **Clearview Gas Pumps** - 1 to be restored • 1 **Wayne** Restored **White Rose** • **ADVERTISING SIGNS** - GM, Imperial 3 Star, Coca Cola, Purina Chow, Buckingham Door Push, Blue Ribbon, Quaker State, UFA Co-Op, Goodyear And **Many Others** • Elk Point Advertising Items **MORE ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES:** Medalta Crocks, 1-5 gal. • 1/2 gal.- 5 gal. Jugs 4 & 5 gal. **Churns** • Plus Misc. Stoneware - Some Medalta • 1gal - 5gal **Cream Cans** • Mantle and Wall **Clocks** • **Parrot** Peanut Butter Pail • **Military Items** • Railway **Lanterns** • 11 Digit **Phone** • **Candlestick** Phones • **Wooden** Wall Phones • Wonder Rope Maker • Misc **Avon** • Large Assortment **Oil Lamps** • Bakelite **Radios** • 2 **NATIONAL** Candy Store CASH REGISTERS • Floor Lamps • **Structo** Trucks, **Lincoln** Trucks, **Misc. Toys** • Airplane Ashtray • **Cast Iron** Seats • **Belt Buckles** - Some Montana Silversmiths, Bergamot Brass Works, Indiana Metal Craft • Floor Ashtrays • Tobacco Tins • Oil Tins • Books • **Cast Iron** Heat Registers • Tools • China & Glassware • Irons • Depression Glass • **Scales** • Milk Shake Machine - 5 Cups • Large Selection Of **Milk Bottles And Fruit Jars** • Pendelfin Ornaments • **Royal Doulton Figurines** • Washboards • **Silver** Teasets • **Silver** Cutlery Sets • Manuals • Calendars • Signed **Soapstone** Carvings • Snowshoes • Saws • Misc **Cast Iron** Items • Pictures • License Plates • Pocket Watches • **Wade** Ornaments • Salt & Pepper Shakers • Antique Scroll Saw • Trunks • Vintage **Light** Fixtures • Wooden Boxes • **Bosson** Heads • Canada Art **Pottery** • Royal Copley • Collector Plates • Weller **Pottery** • Wedgwood • Roseville **Pottery** • Cameras• **Triang Pedal Car** • Lightening Rods • Comic Books • Pitcher & Bowl Set • **Royal Albert** Silver Birch • Hummels • Carnival Glass • Royalty Items • Fire King • Moose Tufting • **Ken Lonechild** Original Oil Painting - **APPROX. 500 QUALITY ITEMS**

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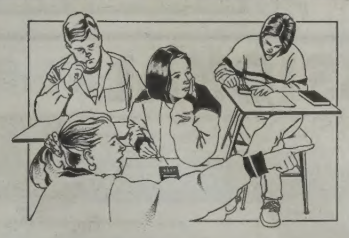


APRIL 4: DAY FOR EDUCATION

Before you mark your x, know your candidates' views on education.

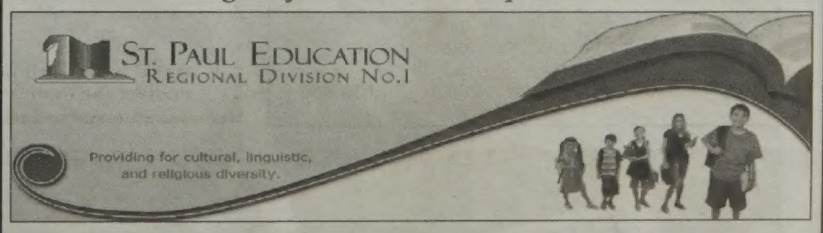
St. Paul Education and
the Alberta Teachers Association Local No. 25
are hosting a

CANDIDATES MEET & GREET ON EDUCATION

Join us on this Day for Education event where you will have an opportunity to meet and talk with local MLA candidates about our education system and the needs of our students.

Wednesday, April 4

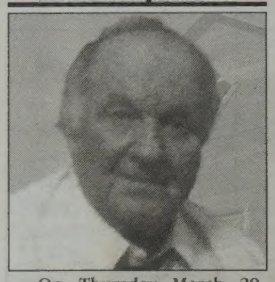
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
St. Paul Regional High School Cafeteria
Light refreshments will be provided.



The Alberta Teachers' Association
Greater St. Paul Local No. 25

OBITUARY

PANKIW, Peter



On Thursday March 29, 2012 Mr. Peter Pankiw of Elk Point passed away at the Elk Point Health Care Center, Elk Point, Alberta at the age of 88 years.

Peter is loved and remembered by his children: Brenda (Ken) Hladunewich of Beauvallon, AB, Elaine (Harvey) Aarbo of Elk Point, AB, Richard Pankiw (Susan Friesen) of Grande Prairie, AB, Dave (Bernadette) Pankiw of Elk Point, AB, Normy Pankiw of Elk Point, AB; 21 Grandchildren and 26 Great Grandchildren; sisters: Stella Harrison of Edmonton, Leona Moneta of Elk Point sisters-in-law Alice Pankiw of St. Paul, Julia Pankiw of Elk Point, brother-in-law Nick Melnyk of Elk Point. He was predeceased by his parents Alex and C atherine Pankiw, (mother of his children) Paulina (Melnyk) Pankiw, brothers Bill, Steve, Walter and Mike, sisters Mary Melnyk and Elizabeth Pankiw.

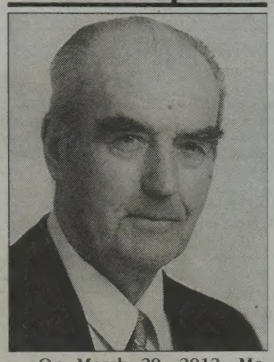
A Funeral Service for Peter will be held at the Elk Point Seniors Centre in Elk Point, AB on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 11:00 am. Donations in memory of Peter may be made to Haying in the 30's (Box 35, Mallaig, Alberta T0A2K0)

Peter's family would like to thank the Doctors, nurses and all of the staff at the Elk Point Health Care Centre for the wonderful care Peter received and the compassion they showed our family during such a trying time.

Online condolences at www.crossroadsfuneralchapel.com

OBITUARY

GOZJOLKO, John

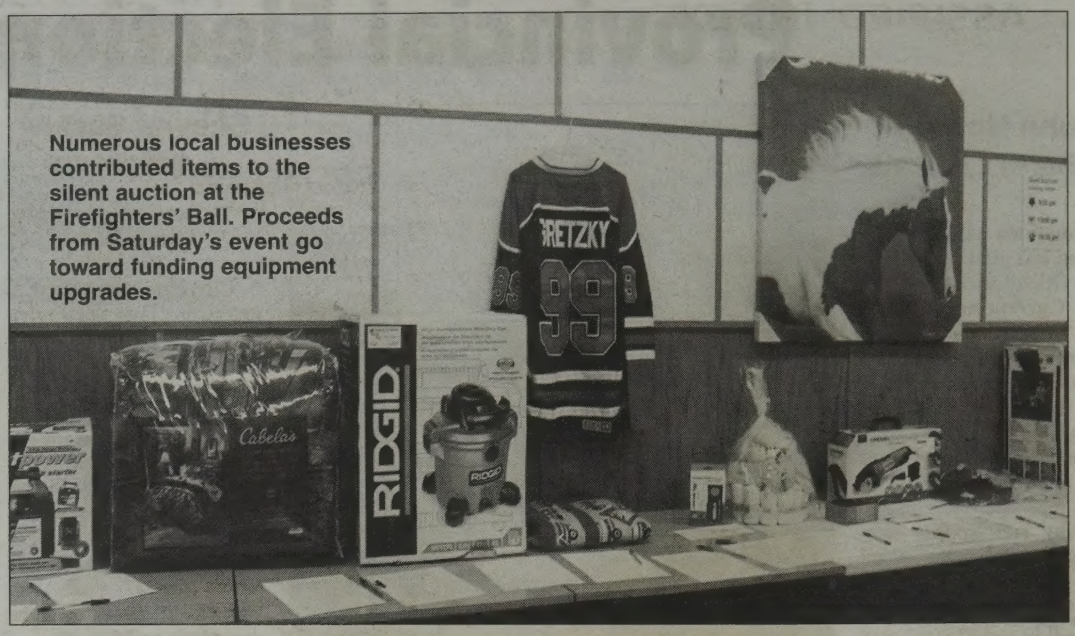


On March 29, 2012, Mr. John Gozjolko of Elk Point passed away at the age of 89 years.

He is survived by his loving wife, Antonia; 2 daughters, Vivian (Andy) Smereka of Elk Point & Debbie (Earl) Schmermund of Edmonton; 5 grandchildren, Darcy (Colleen), Todd, Andrea (John), Brad & Ryan; 1 great-granddaughter, Jillian; 2 sisters & 2 brothers, Sophie Steinbach, Susie Gable & Joe all of Edmonton, & Stanley (Shirley) of Burnaby, B.C.; brother-in-law, John Snihur of St. Paul; numerous nieces & nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Josef & Teofila; step-mother, Nellie; brother, Felix; sister, Annie Snihur; sisters-in-law, Cecile Gozjolko & Polly Gozjolko.

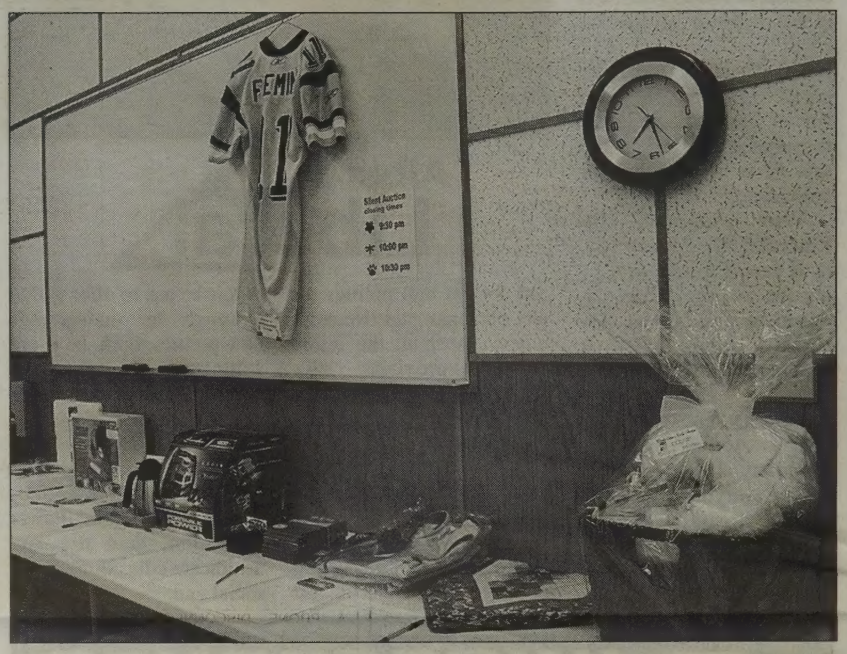
A Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, April 3 at 10:30 a.m. at Elk Point Seniors Centre, Elk Point. Reverend Father Andrew Schoenberger will be officiating with interment in Elk Point East Cemetery, Elk Point. If desired, donations may be made to Haying in the 30's Cancer Support Society c/o Box 1780, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0. To send condolences online, please visit www.gracegardensfuneralchapel.com.

GRACE GARDENS FUNERAL CHAPEL, Box 1780, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0 780-645-2677.

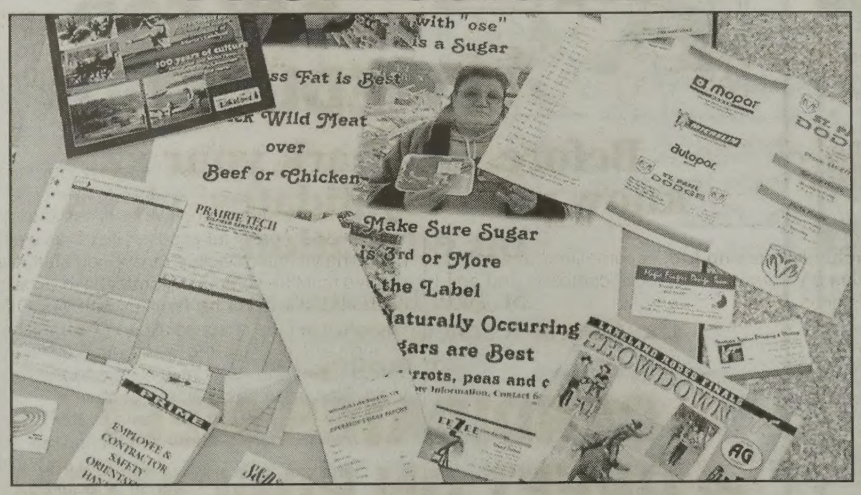


Numerous local businesses contributed items to the silent auction at the Firefighters' Ball. Proceeds from Saturday's event go toward funding equipment upgrades.

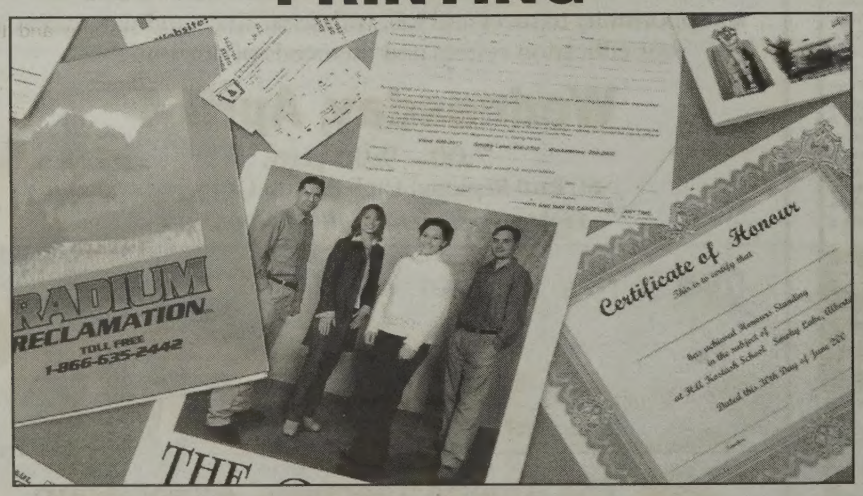
Elk Point
Baptist Church
Ladies
Rally
Strength
for the
Journey
Speaker:
Cynthia Cavanaugh
www.cynthiacavanaugh.com
April 21
9 am - 4 pm
Lunch Provided
Info:
Brenda 780-645-2159



PROFESSIONAL



PRINTING



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Canada

500. Tenders | **500. Tenders**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Evergreen Regional Waste Management Services Commission

HAULING LEACHATE

The Evergreen Regional Waste Management Services Commission is accepting written proposal for removal of Leachate at its facility located near Lafond, AB at legal land location pt N.W. 16-56-10-W4th.

This proposal is for pumping leachate from a tank or from a sump 10 meters below ground surface on a 24-hour notice and hauled to the CCS facility located near Lindbergh at the pt S.W. 26-56-5-W4th.

Written requests for proposal marked Hauling Leachate will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. April 11, 2012. Evergreen reserves the right to accept the proposal that best provides the needs for the Evergreen Commission. The highest or indeed any tender need not necessarily be accepted.

Inquiries regarding this request shall be directed to:

Ramona Arnett, Manager 780-646-6125
Mike Gill, Site Operator 780-210-5002

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TENDER FOR TULLIBY LAKE SCHOOL

Buffalo Trail Public Schools is currently seeking tenders for the purchase of Tulliby Lake School in the Village of Tulliby Lake, Alberta. Viewing of the facility will be April 10, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Real Property Report, site plans and floor plans will be made available by contacting the Director of Facility Services.

Tenders may be forwarded to Buffalo Trail Public Schools Central Services at 1041-10A Street, Wainwright, AB., T9W 2R4.

Tenders will be closed on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Buffalo Trail Public Schools reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. The successful bidder will be responsible for all legal costs.

Mr. Randy Huxley
Director, Facility Services
1041-10A Street
Wainwright, AB., T9W 2R4
Phone 780-806-2047; Fax 780-842-3255

130. Coming Events

ANTIQUE SHOW - Western Canada's longest running collectors show. Antiques, collectibles, and pop culture. 37th Annual Wild Rose Antique Collectors Show & Sale. Sellers from across Canada. Special collectors displays. Antique appraisals by Peter Blundell - $12. per item. Good Friday, Apr. 6, 9 - 5 p.m.; Sat. Apr. 7, 10 - 5 p.m. Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton. 780-437-9722; www.wildroseantiquecollectors.ca.

CONSORT GUN & Hobby Show. 37th Annual, April 14 & 15, Consort Sportex. Saturday 10 - 5:30; Sunday 10 - 3:30, Consort, Alberta. Country music sessions begin Friday Noon. Food, show and music under one roof. Admission: $5 adults, $3 youth. Over 1800 ft. display and trade tables. Boat and firearm licence testing available. Phone 403-577-3818. Sponsored by Consort Lions Club.

200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

DO YOU HAVE gravel/aggregate deposits on your property? We specialize in marketing, mining, managing and reclaiming aggregate resources. Contact Tom 1-888-784-4400 for more information.

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BUSY OILFIELD Trucking Company now hiring: Licensed & apprentice heavy duty mechanics (must have proven experience). Hot Oiler Operator or trainee. Pressure Truck Operator. Please contact Rob at 780-542-5879.

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1500. Help Wanted - Prov.

CAM CLARK FORD, Olds, Alberta requires Journeyman Automotive Technician. Competitive wage, group benefits. Fax resume to 1-403-556-3585 or email to: jhn_lavorie@yahoo.ca. Attention: Service Manager.

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CONCRETE FINISHERS and Form Setters. Edmonton based company seeks experienced concrete finishers and form setters for work in Edmonton and northern Alberta. Subsistence and accommodations provided for out of town work; john@raidersconcrete.com. Cell 780-660-8130. Fax 780-444-7103.

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We are currently looking for
- **STEAM TRUCK OPERATORS**
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- **JOURNEYMAN PICKER TRUCK OPERATORS**
- **10 LABORERS**

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Please fax resumes to 780-724-2060
ATTENTION: BRUCE

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Bearing Oilfield is currently recruiting:

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We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.

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or phone 780-875-7665

1500. Help Wanted - Prov.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS and Property Services, Town of Ponoka. Full details and job description at www.ponoka.org. Closing date April16; bwatson@ponoka.org.

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EXPERIENCED FOREMAN, Cat & Hoe Operators required for oilfield construction with well maintained equipment. Competitive salary & safety tickets required. Fax resume 780-778-2444.

SEEKING A CAREER in the Community Newspaper business? Post your resume for FREE right where the publishers are looking. Visit: www.awna.com/resumes_add.php.

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1500. Help Wanted - Prov.

EXPERIENCED REPAIR Person or H.D. Mechanic to work in Clive, Alberta area. Experience with highway tractors & trailers. Class 3 an asset. Please fax resume 1-855-784-2330 or call 1-877-787-2501.

EXPERIENCED WINCH Tractor and Bed Truck Drivers for drilling, rig moving trucking company. Phone, fax, email or mail. Email: rigmove@telus.net. Phone 780-842-6444. Fax 780-842-6581. H & E Oilfield Services Ltd., 2202 - 1 Ave., Wainwright, AB, T9W 1L7.

1005. Help Wanted

1500. Help Wanted - Prov.

FULL-TIME REGISTERED Dental Assistant Level II required for busy family dental practice in Rocky Mountain House. We are looking for an ambitious, friendly and team-oriented individual. Competitive salary, benefit package, uniform allowance and four-day work week. If you are this person, please fax resume to 403-845-7610. Attention: Ruth.

THE AIRDRIE CITY VIEW is looking for a full-time reporter. Candidates must have a journalism diploma and experience. Email resume to: sales@airdrie.greatwest.ca. Fax 403-948-2554.

1005. Help Wanted

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT

The Town of Elk Point

IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR

CENSUS ENUMERATORS

Potential enumerators must be: courteous, professional, accurate, attentive and flexible.

Application due: April 10, 2012 at noon

Applications can be dropped off at 4914-50 Ave.
Email: town@elkpoint.ca
Fax 780-724-2762 or
Mail: Box 448, Elk Point, AB., T0A 1A0
For more info. contact the Town Office at 780-724-3810

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E-mail to: cody.shellshock@hotmail.com
Phone Cody at 780-645-0040

Northern Lights Library System (NLLS)

SUMMER TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT

Northern Lights Library System invites applications for Summer Employment. This 16 week position provides support to all departments of Northern Lights Library System headquarters.

The successful applicant will assist with all Headquarter library functions at NLLS as well as providing vacation backup for support staff. Candidates must be computer literate, have excellent keyboard skills and be familiar with MS Office applications. The successful candidate will have strong people skills, the willingness to take on varied tasks and responsibilities and the ability to function in an environment of change.

Post Secondary Students in the area of computer sciences, information technology, web design, library sciences or education are invited to apply. A valid driver's license is required.

Salary: $14.00 / Hour
Closing Date: April 13, 2012

Please submit cover letter, resume and the names of three references to:

Brigitte Sakaluk, Assistant Director
Northern Lights Library System
Bag 8
Elk Point, AB., T0A 1A0
Fax 780-724-2597
Email: bsakaluk@nlls.ab.ca.

Northern Lights Library System

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

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LAKELAND REGIONAL Mondays - $10.50 per week + GST
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3010. Auctions

K&K AUCTIONS Presents an Antique and Collectible Auction, Sunday, April 15, 2012, 10 a.m. at Bashaw Community Centre. Call Doug and Loraine 780-679-4142; www.globalauctionguide.com.

1500. Help Wanted - Prov.

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3010. Auctions

COSTAIN CLASSIC Auto Auction. 2nd Annual, May 12, 2012, Provident Place, Redwater, Alberta. 780-777-7576; www.costainclassicauto.com. Also, 30,000 sq. ft. indoor storage available 5 minutes from Redwater; www.costainsindoorstorage.com.

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1005. Help Wanted

3010. Auctions

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3010. Auctions

LARGE TREE AUCTION for Red Rock Nursery, Medicine Hat, Alberta. Saturday, April 28 at 1 p.m. 1400 Colorado Blue Spruce; www.schlenkerauction.com. 403-527-2814.

MEIER - 2 DAY Classic Car & Truck Auction, Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6, 11 a.m. Both days. 6016 - 72A Ave., Edmonton. Over 150 Classics. To consign, call 780-440-1860.

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UNRESERVED AUCTIONS - Sunday, April 15, 10 a.m. Gordon Kuhn, Elk Point, Alberta. Phone 780-645-0163. 1820 Grandfather clock; 1880 games table; dentist chair; 2 Clearview Gas Pumps; restored white rose pump; 1 white rose sign c/w 2-10' Motor Oil & Gas Wings; other signs; 11 digit phone; 2 National Candy Cash Registers; Ken Lonechild oil painting; furnishings; approx. 500 quality items. May 2 & 3 - Large 2 Day Farm & Construction Equipment Auction, Redwater. May 9 - Large Roofing Co. - Edmonton Antique Auction, May 18, 19, 20, Edmonton - 6000 lots. View full lists online: prodaniukauctions.com.

1005. Help Wanted

3210. Misc. For Sale

BERRIES: Ben Hope Black Currant at $6.99/tree for full box of 80. Also cherries, Haskaps, raspberries, saskatoons. Free shipping. 1-866-873-3846 or treetime.ca.

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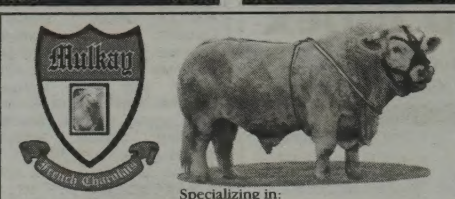
4005. Cattle



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VERMILLION CHAROLAIS GROUP 26th Annual Charolais Bull Sale. 60 - 2 year olds; 15 yearlings. Nilsson Bros., Vermilion, Saturday, April 7, 2012, 1 p.m. Free bull draw! Some restrictions. Misty Hills Charolais 780-853-3315; Good Anchor Charolais 780-853-2220; Lakeview Charolais 780-205-0912; XXX Farms 780-846-2452.

1005. Help Wanted

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7245. Misc. Services

5800. Manuf. Homes - Sale

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6400. Motorhomes/RVs

RV LOTS $38,000. Clear title. $1,000. down, balance on/before April 17/2012. FHU50amp, pool, spa, clubhouse, gated. Viewing by pre-booked appointment only. Call 1-888-913-2114. Website: www.countrylanervcalgary.com

6650. Tires/Parts/Access.

SCRAP BATTERIES WANTED. Buying scrap batteries from cars, trucks & heavy equipment. $3. each. Free pick-up greater Calgary & Edmonton area. Minimum 10. Toll free 1-877-334-2288.

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CRIMINAL RECORD? Guaranteed record removal since 1989. Confidential. Fast. Affordable. Our A+ BBB rating assures employment/travel freedom. Call for free information booklet. 1-8-NOW-PARDON (1-866-972-7366). RemoveYourRecord.com.

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At our Bonnyville head office.
Previous experience in the trucking and safety fields, as well as accounts payable/receivables experience would be an asset.
Applicant must be experienced with Word and Excel and work effectively in a Microsoft Office Environment.
Site specific training will be provided.

Hours are Monday to Friday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
This is a maternity leave position to commence as soon as possible.
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T9N 2N3
Email: brentm@cougarfuelsltd.ca
No phone calls please!
Successful Applicants will be contacted.

St. Paul Education
REGIONAL DIVISION NO. 1

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANT

St. Paul Education is seeking an individual to assume the role of Transportation Assistant at our central office located in St. Paul, Alberta. The Assistant works with the Director of Facilities and Transportation ensuring the implementation of safe and efficient transportation services to more than 1900 students in 13 schools.

Duties and responsibilities of the position include, but are not limited to:

1. Coordinating all 'to and from school' transportation services, including liaison with division drivers, bus contractors, schools, parents and adherence to all applicable legislation.
2. Assisting with the management of bus drivers and bus shop staff.
3. Coordinating recruitment of same, including assisting with professional development.
4. Preparing annual funding grant for review by the Director.
5. Working collaboratively to ensure positive communication with administration, school personnel, bus drivers, parents and the public.
6. Promoting quality relationships between the Division and other stakeholders.
7. Managing incoming concerns.

The preferred candidate's qualifications include:

1. School bus transportation experience or other relevant experience.
2. Well developed interpersonal skills and the ability to take initiative and work independently with a positive and supportive attitude in a team environment.
3. Intermediate or better MS office, e-mail and web usage skills. Knowledge of Edulog or other school transportation software would be an asset.
4. Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
5. Demonstrated ability to multi-task and prioritize a high volume workload with superior attention to detail.
6. A positive and diplomatic manner and proven conflict resolution skills.

This is a full-time, year-round position that will commence as soon as possible. Resumes, including references, are invited with a closing date of April 14, 2012. Short-listing will take place as applications are received. Only candidates to be interviewed will be contacted.

Resumes to be submitted no later than ***April 14, 2012*** *to:*

Doug Fedoruk, Director of Facilities & Transportation
4313-48 Avenue, St. Paul, Alberta, T0A 3A3
Telephone: 780-645-3323; Fax: 780-645-5789

The successful applicant will be required to submit a current criminal record check and Alberta Children's Services Intervention Check.

The County of St. Paul #19

IS LOOKING FOR

SUMMER STUDENTS

to work in the Administration Office in the Planning Department in a clerical role as well as in the Public Works / Parks Departments as labourers.

These seasonal full-time positions start May 1 and will continue until the end of August.

Deadline for applications April 20, 2012 at Noon.

Resumes can be submitted by mail, fax or email to:

Sheila Kitz, CAO
County of St. Paul
5015 – 49 Avenue, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A4
Email: skitz@county.stpaul.ab.ca
Phone: 780-645-3301, ext 208
Fax: 780-645-3104

Only those applicants shortlisted will be notified.

St. Paul Education
REGIONAL DIVISION NO. 1

WORKERS

St. Paul Education requires **Workers** to assist our **Maintenance department** in servicing the Division's buildings and grounds. These are seasonal full-time positions commencing May 1, 2012 with additional positions starting July 3, 2012.

Duties will include all aspects of grounds keeping, basic demolition and renovation work, interior and exterior painting and other work as assigned. University and High School students of both genders are encouraged to apply.

The wage range is $12.00 / hr. - $16.00 / hr.

Resumes can be submitted by mail, fax or email no later than ***April 11, 2012*** *to:*

Henri Gratton
St. Paul Education Reg. Div. No. 1
4313 - 48 Avenue
St. Paul, AB. T0A 3A3
Email: henri_gratton@sperd.ca
Phone (780) 645-4933
Fax (780) 645-4988

In accordance with Board Policy, the successful applicants will be required to provide a current Criminal Record Check. Only those applicants shortlisted will be notified.

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Contracted for 20 hours per week.
Weekend and evening work may be required.

Job description available at the Town Office.

Deadline to apply is April 19, 2012 at 12:00 PM (noon).

For more information, contact Myron at 780-724-3810.

To apply, drop your resume off at 4914-50 Avenue, Elk Point, AB.

or Mail: Box 448, Elk Point, AB., T0A 1A0
or Email: town@elkpoint.ca
or Fax 780-724-2762

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MUNICIPAL CENSUS
ENUMERATORS REQUIRED
County of St. Paul No. 19

The County of St. Paul No. 19 will be requiring census enumerators from

June 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012

These individuals should live within the County of St. Paul boundaries.

Anyone interested in being an enumerator are asked to phone in with your contact information to:

Linda Meger @ 780-645-3301 extension (212) or Tim Mahdiuk @ 780-645-3301 extension (204) or you can e-mail your contact information to countysp@county.stpaul.ab.ca

The remuneration for this position is as follows:

Flat rate of $5.00 per household
Mileage reimbursement - $.50/km

Successful candidates will be contacted the week of May 21st to commence their orientation and training.

We thank you for your interest in helping the County of St. Paul conduct our 2012 Census.

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Mark Letestu looks back on NHL season

By Ciaran Thompson
Review Contributor

Despite sitting last in the National Hockey League with only 25 wins, Elk Point product and Columbus Blue Jackets forward Mark Letestu can see some light at the end of the tunnel.

Playing in the central division among heavyweights St. Louis, Detroit, Nashville and Chicago, the Jackets struggled throughout the year, but have managed a few wins here and there, like last week against the Red Wings.

"Yeah we don't get too many," Letestu joked regarding his team's recent 4 – 2 home win against Detroit. "That team is a lot better on home ice. For some reason on the road they're not the same."

Since being traded to Columbus from Pittsburgh last November and recovering from a broken hand sustained in early January, Letestu has relished the opportunity with Columbus and is now playing on a line with veteran Vinny Prospal and power forward Rick Nash.

"Prospal and I have been playing together for a few months now," he said. "Nash has been with us for the last two or three games. We seem to be contributing one to two goals per game as a line.

"We'd like a few more wins to come with it, but for right now the line is playing well and we're hoping it continues throughout the rest of the year," he added.

Though it was difficult leaving a Stanley Cup contending organization, Letestu said the chance to play with a rebuilding franchise like the Blue Jackets is exciting and in the end more rewarding.

However, playing alongside all stars Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin was a thrilling experience he said he would always remember.

"It's nice to look across the room and see the guy that's in the Tim Hortons commercial all the time," he explained. "Just knowing you're in the locker room with those guys and hopefully picking up a thing or two along the way."

"It was neat because when Sid was out with a concussion, I had knee surgery at the same time," he continued. "We got to hang out quite a bit just doing the on-ice rehab stuff together, which was nice."

Spending a couple seasons with Pittsburgh's American Hockey League affiliate, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, Letestu was recalled to the NHL in the 2009/10 season where he scored his first goal in a game against Buffalo.

"It was basically the first shift of the game," he recalled. "It was 45 seconds in and it was a two on one. Tyler Kennedy made a saucer pass across Chris Butler and I had an empty net.

"After the puck hit my stick I'm pretty sure I didn't clue in to what happened," he said. "You're so happy you just made an impact in the league and hopefully made a lot of people along the way proud of you. It's a pretty cool moment for anybody to have."

Now getting a fresh start in Columbus, Letestu's role has changed on the ice, which is something that attracted to him playing with the Blue Jackets and remaining positive despite the team's low ranking.

"Anytime you're walking away from somewhere you obviously experienced a certain degree of success it's tough," he said. "I've put it into perspective now that I'm playing a bigger role on a smaller team … I'm getting a chance to become a better player and grow."

"Recently I've been playing up to 20 minutes a night, which wasn't a possibility with Pittsburgh with the amount of depth it has at centre," he added. "I've been getting the opportunities I need to further myself."

Surprisingly the mood in the Jackets' dressing room is upbeat, he said, and the majority of credit for that goes to interim coach Todd Richards. Columbus fired head coach Scott Arniel in early January when the team was 20 points out of a playoff spot.

"We see the light at the end of the tunnel. It's not going to be bad like this forever," he said. "We'll get drafts and pick a few players up. You can turnaround pretty quickly in this league."

Division rivals the St. Louis Blues are a perfect example of a quick turnaround as the team is now first in the western conference after finishing 11th last season and missing the playoffs. The Florida Panthers are another example and now sit third in the east.

With the playoffs drawing near, Letestu and the Blue Jackets are set on finishing out the regular season strong. Every summer the centerman visits Elk Point with his wife and son while also making it north to skate with his former Junior A club, the Bonnyville Pontiacs.

"I always draw back on those times," he said about his three years with the Pontiacs. "Probably my best friends in hockey were made then. Just being able to play close to home. It's part of my life in hockey that I definitely don't want to see go away."

Jason Mowry/Columbus Wired Photo

Bigger Role

Columbus Blue Jackets forward Mark Letestu battles for the puck in a game against Chicago earlier this year. The Elk Point native has been playing a bigger role for the team since being traded from Pittsburgh in November.

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